the end of the year. At present no proposal is under the consideration of the Government for making any additional allocation of funds to Gujarat.

Regional Imbalances under TUFS

4576. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are regional imbalances in availability of TUFS; and

(b) if so, what are the details of steps proposed to be taken by Government, to ensure equal spreading of benefits under TUFS to all States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Logically, the Scheme is coherent, demand-driven and space-neu tral for economic and functional orientation. Hence, there is no need.

Import duty on cotton

4577. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Maharashtra Government has requested Government to increase import duty on cotton, from 10 per cent to 50 percent;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The Government of Maharashtra has requested the Government of India to increase the import duty without specifying the level.

(b) The Government of Maharashtra has stated that due to nominal levey of import duty at 10%, cotton is being imported at large scale, affecting the prices of cotton and interest of cotton cultivators and, further desired for incentives as well as increase in import duty.

(c) Ministry of Textiles does not find it reasonable to agree to the demands of Government of Maharashtra to enhance the import duty in view of the following facts:—

At present, cotton imports to the extent of 5 to 6 lakh bales are taking place in the country mainly in Extra Long Staple (ELS) varieties of cotton which are already in short supply in the country. This is not a large quantity in view of the domestic production at around 270 lakh bales. Moreover, cotton imports are linked to short supply situation and at 10% import duty and for those varieties which are not domestically produced. Cotton imports are primarily linked to short supply situation especially ELS cotton. In case of the import duty is increased to 60%, the domestic industry will ultimately suffer, as it will get ELS cotton at enhanced prices. It will further result in enhancement of the cost of production of good quality fabrice thereby making Indian textile industry incompetitive in domestic as well as international market.

New textiles park

4578. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently cleared four more textile parks, bringing the total to 30, for facilitating additional investment, employment generation and increased textile production;

(b) if so, how many such parks would be established in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what has been the experience of Government with the existing textiles parks, in the field of productivity of textiles and generation of more employment in textiles sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Under the Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP), the initial target of 25 Textile Parks was increased to 30 Textile Parks in the 10th Five Year Plan and 30 projects have already been sanctioned. State-wise sanction is—Andhra Pradesh (4), Gujarat (7), Karnataka (1), Maharashtra (6), Punjab (1), Rajasthan (4), Tamil Nadu (6) and West Bengal (1).